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P 268

Columbia University in the City of New York | New York, N.Y. 10027

UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR EMERITUS

Fayerweather Hall

8801.30 Saturday

Dear Josh,

Your biographical memoir of Tatum for the NAS reached us just an hour-or-so ago. I made the mistake of assuming that I would swiftly scan and then get back to work still undone. I started to scan and, of course, remained to read -- with mounting pleasure.

This memoir will surely take its place as one of the most remarkably informing ever to appear in the NAS volumes. It is JL at his peak. The extraordinary (composite of) contexts supplied on every page -- at times, in ¶ after ¶ -- grip the reader's attention and provide him with new understandings. I found myself coding some of those diverse contexts: biographical; broadly intellectual and specifically scientific; historical, ranging from changing social, educational and political contexts, to local institutions and their components; sociological, of course, in unobtrusive style; psychological; &c. &c.

The result, in my wholly unbiassed opinion: the very model of what the memoir of a scientist should be but notoriously seldom is. How wise of me to set aside my work-in-hand for a time to be inspirited by your beautiful biographical essay. Congratulations, and thanks.

Bdy

RKM